

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device for clamping a retractor support apparatus to an operating table, the operating table having a side rail, the device comprising:
  - a first clamping member disposed between a side of the operating table and the side rail; and
  - a second clamping member disposed between the side of the operating table and the first clamping member; and
  - a mechanism operably connected to the first clamping member and the second clamping member such that the first and second clamping members are movable in opposing directions thereby frictionally engaging the first clamping member with the side rail and the second clamping member with the side of the operating table.
2. The device of claim 1 wherein the mechanism includes a plurality of threaded rods engaging the first and second clamping members such that when the threaded rods are turned, the first and second clamping members move in the opposing directions.
3. The device of claim 1 wherein the mechanism includes a first threaded rod engaging the first and second clamping members above the side rail and a second threaded rod engaging the first and second clamping members below the side rail such that when the first and second threaded rods are turned, the clamping members move in the opposing directions.
4. The device of claim 3 wherein the first and second rods threadably engage the first clamping member while freely rotating in engagement with the second clamping member.

5. The device of claim 1 and further including a U-shaped member positioned on the side rails with the first clamping member being one leg of the U-shaped member and the U-shaped member having a second leg being disposed on a side of the side rail opposite from the operating table and the first leg.
6. The device of claim 3 wherein the first and second threaded rods each have a handle fixedly attached thereto for turning the first and second threaded rods.
7. A clamping device for retaining a retractor support apparatus over an operating table, the operating table having a side rail, the clamping device comprising:

a U-shaped member having first and second legs, the legs being disposed on opposite sides of the side rail; and

first and second rods threadably engaging the U-shaped member with the first threaded rod positioned above the side rail and the second threaded rod being positioned below the side rail, each of the rods having distal ends for acting against the operating table such that when the threaded rods are turned, the first and second legs are forced against the side rail, frictionally engaging the side rail and holding the U-shaped member in a clamped position against the side rail.
8. The clamping device of claim 6 and further including a clamping plate rotatably engaged by the distal ends of the first and second rods and positioned against the operating table to engage the operating table when at least one of the threaded rods is turned.

9. The clamping device of claim 7 and wherein both threaded rods are turned to force the first leg against the side rail.
10. A clamping device for retaining a retractor support apparatus over an operating table, the operating table having a side rail, the clamping device comprising:
  - a first clamp plate disposed between the side rail and a side of the operating table;
  - a second clamp plate disposed between the first clamp plate and the operating table wherein the second clamp plate engages the side of the operating table; and
  - a first force providing mechanism operably connected to the first clamp plate and the second clamp plate, the force providing mechanism providing a clamping force to the first clamp plate by interacting with the second clamp plate such that the first clamp plate is positioned in a first position wherein the first clamp plate frictionally engages the side rail.
11. The device of claim 10 and further comprising:
  - a top member attached to the first clamp plate; and
  - a retaining member attached to the top member wherein the retaining member is spaced apart from the first clamp plate wherein the first clamp plate, the top member and the retaining member define a slot which slidably engages the side rail.
12. The device of claim 10 wherein the first force providing mechanism comprises:
  - a first bore disposed into the second clamp plate;

a first threaded bore disposed through the first clamp plate, wherein  
the first threaded bore is aligned with the first bore; and  
a first threaded bolt threadably engaging the first threaded bore and  
operably engaging the first bore such that manipulation of  
the first threaded bolt positions the first clamp plate into  
either the first position where the first clamp plate  
frictionally engage the side rail or a second position  
wherein the first clamp plate does not frictionally engage  
the side rail.

13. The device of claim 12 wherein the first threaded bolt further  
comprises an engaging surface, the engaging surface being manipulated to position  
the first clamp plate between the first position and the second position.

14. The device of claim 12 wherein the first threaded bolt further  
comprises a first handle attached to a distal end of the first threaded bolt wherein  
the first handle is manipulated to position the first clamp plate between the first  
position and the second position.

15. The device of claim 12 wherein the first force providing  
mechanism is disposed above a top end of the side rail and a top end of the side of  
the table.

16. The device of claim 10 and further comprising a second force  
providing mechanism operably connected to both the second clamp plate and the  
first clamp plate a distance from the first force providing mechanism, the second  
force providing mechanism providing a force to both the second clamp plate and  
the first clamp plate such that the first clamp plate frictionally engages the side rail.

17. The device of claim 16 wherein the second force providing mechanism comprises:

a second bore disposed into the second clamp plate;  
a second threaded bore disposed through the first clamp plate, the second threaded bore aligned with the second bore; and  
a second threaded bolt threadably engaging the second threaded bore and wherein a proximal end of the second bolt operably engages the second bore such that manipulation of the second threaded bolt positions the first clamp plate into either a first position where the first clamp plate frictionally engages the side rail or a second position where the first clamp plate does not frictionally engage the side rail.

18. The device of claim 17 wherein the second threaded bolt further comprises a second handle attached to a distal end of the second threaded bolt wherein the second handle is manipulated to position the first clamp plate between the first position and the second position.

19. The device of claim 17 wherein the second force providing mechanism is disposed below a bottom end of the side rail.